Japanese Assistance for Rail Project

71. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered financial assistance for three Rail Projects linked to Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres in India, if so, what are the Projects and what is the quantum of assistance offered; and

(b) whether any progress has been made in the talks in this respect during the meetings between Indian Officials and the Visiting Japanese Delegation led by Senator Narota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b) A Japanese Delegation led by Senator Narota had held discussions in August' 90 with Indian Officials during which the following three projects were identified for possible financial assistance from the Government of Japan:

(1) Restoration of Chitauni-Bagaha rail link and construction of a rail-cum-road bridge over river Gandak.

(2) Procurement of rails and tunnelling machines required by Konkan Rail Project; and

(3) Construction of Pilgrim Ashrams at rail heads near places of Budhist interests.

The cost of these projects is Rs. 154.65 cr., Rs. 240 cr. & Rs. 8 cr. respectively. The discussions were followed up by a reference to the Japanese Prime Minister from the Minister of Railways. Later in December, 1990, further discussions with another member of the delegation, Reverend Uchida, were held and the Government of Japan was formally approached for financial asistance through the Ministry of Finance (DEA). in January, 1991, an identifying Mission from Japan held discussions with Indian Railway Officials and collected relevant information in respect of the above projects. The quantum of aid that may become available for these projects is yet to be decided by the Government of Japan.

Foreign exchange earnings from.. Tourism

72. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the accrual of foreign exchange under the head of tourism during the last three years; the number of tourists visiting India during the same time;

(b) whether Disney Land Project of Haryana is finally cleared; and

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of farmers have opposed and demonstrated against this project, if so, what are their objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India and the estimates of foreign exchange earnings from tourism du-

ring the last 3 years are as given below:—

Year	No. of foreign tourists (including nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh)	Foreign exchange earnings from tourism (Rs. Crores)
1987-88 .	15,13,487	1,856
1988-89 .	16,19,298	2,103
1989-90 .	17,65,079	2,456 (P)

(P) Provisional

(b) and (c) The Central Government has neither sponsored nor financed any such project in Haryana. The question of clearance of the project and dealing with the other related issues, therefore, does not arise.

Review of fertilizer subsidy

73. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reviewing the present system of fertilizer subsidy calculated on the cost-plus formula;

(b) whether the present formula is also appliacble on tea, coffee and rubber producers besides foodgrains producers; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to ensure that the subsidy goes to the poor and not the rich?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) The present formula under the retntion price-cum-subsidy scheme is operative for the 5th pricing period ending on 31st March, 1991. The Fertilizer Industry Coordination Committee has initiated necessary steps for formulating the retention pricing policy effective from 1st April, 1991.

(b) The subsidy is paid to the manufacturers of fertilizer and not to the consumers. The sale prices of fertilizer are uniform for all the categories of consumers. However, the pool issue prices are slighthly more in case of plantations than the prices charged for sale to private parties/registered licensed dealers.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, question does not arise.

Impact of the Gulf War on foreign tourists

74. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the impact of the Gulf War on foreign tourist traffic to India;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a large withdrawls of confirmed bookings from United States, Britain and some other countries, if so, the data available in this regard;

(c) the steps being taken to remove mis-apprehensions on the subject abroad; and

(d) the available data about drop in tourist traffic to Jammu and Kashmir both Indian and foreign in last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) There has been a decline of about 20 per cent in the foreign tourist traffic to India excluding the nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh during January, 1991 as compared to the